

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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TAGS: PFOR EG GW LY UR US LE XA

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY -- AUGUST 28-30

1. HIGHLIGHTS:

--U.S. COVERAGE IS FAIRLY HEAVY AND NEGATIVE, BUT POET YEVTUSHENKO WRITES VERY POSITIVE PIECE ON HIS CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN WRITERS.

--ON KOREA, AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY (AUGUST 28), PEGGED TO THE PRO-DPRK UN RESOLUTION, DESCRIBES THE U.S. REACTION TO THE AUGUST 18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AS BOTH PROVOCATIVE AND UNNECESSARY, BUT MOSCOW AGAIN AVOIDS ANY DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT ITSELF (SEPTEL).

--PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL WEEK OBSERVER VITALIY KORIONOV ON AUGUST 29 TAKES GENERAL HAIG TO TASK FOR "POISONING THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE" WITH TALK ABOUT AN ALLEGED "SOVIET THREAT" IN ORDER TO INCREASE NATO'S COMBAT CAPABILITIES AND ELIMINATE "NATIONAL PRIVILEGES."

--KZ AUGUST 29 FEATURES ARTICLES ON NATO "AUTUMN FORGE-76" MANEUVER IN WHICH M. PONOMAREV AND V. BEREZIN DECRY INCREASED SIZE OF THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE, ALLEGED "WAR HYSTERIA" OF NATO LEADERS AND INCREASED U.S. MILITARY INFLUENCE IN WESTERN EUROPE.

--ON FRENCH GOVERNMENT CHANGES, PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK OBSERVER AUGUST 29 THREATENED CHIRAC RESIGNATION IN STRICTLY ECONOMIC TERMS, NO MENTION OF FOREIGN POLICY. AUGUST 30 PRAVDA ALSO CARRIED KOSYGIN MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW PM BARRE EXPRESSING CERTAINTY OF CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL BENEFICIAL COOPERATION AND CITING "TRADITIONAL TIES" BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES. GROMYKO CONGRATULATIONS TO FM DE GUIRINGAUD ALSO CARRIED IN AUGUST 30 PRAVDA.

--CONTINUED COVERAGE OF FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN PRAVDA AUGUST 28 REPORTS ON SDP/FDP "ELECTION DECLARATIONS" IN WHICH SDP CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF EASTERN POLICY AND DETENTE TO WHICH THERE IS "NO ALTERNATIVE". TASS ITEM OF AUGUST 30 IN PRAVDA ALSO PICKS UP "NO ALTERNATIVE" LINE IN REPORT OF MEETING IN OLDENBURG OF PUBLIC FIGURES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM FRG, DENMARK, AND HOLLAND. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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--MOST INTERESTING MIDDLE EAST ITEM IS AUGUST 30 PRAVDA "OBSERVER" ARTICLE ON EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN TENSION (SEPTEL). ARTICLE COMES DOWN ON SIDE OF LIBYANS, SAYS NOTHING ABOUT ALLEGED LIBYAN-SPONSORED SUBVERSION, BUT DWELLS ON LIBYA'S OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS IN ME.

--LEBANESE WEEKEND COVERAGE MARKED BY CONTINUING CALLS BY THIRD COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS. PRAVDA'S "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN (AUGUST 29)

MAKES MORE EXPLICIT SOVIET POSITIONS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS FROM LEBANON WOULD HAVE "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE" FOR SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS.

--AUGUST 28 PRAVDA HAS TASS RABAT ITEM ON GROWING TRADE BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND MOROCCO, POINTING OUT THAT MOROCCO EXPORTED MORE THAN 210 THOUSAND TONS OF ORANGES TO SOVIET MARKET LAST YEAR COMPARED TO 65 THOUSAND TONS IN 1965.

--ON AFRICA, PRAVDA'S "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN COMMENTS SARCASTICALLY ON ROGERS-SCHAUFELI TRIP, AS DOES TASS NY ARTICLE TITLED "NEW METHODS - OLD GOALS" IN AUGUST 28 KZ.

--APOLLON DAVIDSON HAS A LENGTHY ARTICLE IN AUGUST 28 PRAVDA ON INCREASING TEMPO OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. DAVIDSON ASSERTS CLASS NATURE OF STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, DENIES THAT RACIAL ASPECT IS ALL-IMPORTANT.

--PRAVDA (AUGUST 29) REPORTS THAT HUNGARIAN PARTY CHIEF KADAR LEFT FOR HOME THE PREVIOUS DAY, AFTER VACATIONING IN THE CRIMEA AT BREZHNEV'S INVITATION.

--BOTH PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA (AUGUST 28) REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 27 POLITBURO MEMBER M.A. SUSLOV RECEIVED RAMON CASTRO RUZ, DIRECTOR OF THE CUBAN STATE LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE "VALLE-DE-PICADURA".

2. U.S.

--PRAVDA (AUGUST 30) CARRIED TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ON CW BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (GENEVA 6837).

--IZVESTIYA (AUGUST 28) CARRIED A VERY LONG ARTICLE ON RL/RFE INCLUDING THE WHOLE CATALOGUE OF NAMES AND ALLEGATIONS (SEPTEL). IT WAS THE FULLEST MEDIA ITEM WE HAVE SEEN ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WAS PRECEDED BY A PRAVDA CARTOON (ALSO AUGUST 28) ON THE "CIA-SPONSORED" RADIO STATIONS.

--IZVESTIYA'S FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY (AUGUST 28) BY V. KUDRYAVTSEV DENOUNCES THE PENTAGON'S "ISLAND POLICY" IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR MARTIN TO HEAD THE MICRONESIA NEGOTIATIONS. THE ITEM CHARGES THAT HT U.S., FAR FROM MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER UN TRUST TO MOVE THE ISLANDS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, ACTUALLY WISHES TO STRENGTHEN ITS OWN STRATEGIC POSITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE.

--U.S. IS PORTRAYED UNFAVORABLY BY NIKOLAI BRAZIN IN PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN (AUGUST 29) VIS-A-VIS CANADIANS WHO ARE SAID TO BE SUCCESSFULLY RESISTING U.S. DOMINATION. SUPPOSED LACK OF AGREEMENT ON "MAJORITY OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS" DISCUSSED IN KISSINGER-MACEACHAN TALKS GIVEN AS EVIDENCE THAT "THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN DIALOGUE WILL BE, AS BEFORE, NOT ONLY SLOW, BUT VERY DIFFICULT." MEANWHILE AUGUST 27 IZVESTIYA BLAMES U.S. FOR INCREASING TRADE DEFICIT OF COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES IN "COMPETITIVE STRUGGLE," THUS, CONTRIBUTING

TO EUROPE'S ECONOMIC WOES.

--BOTH PRAVDA AND KZ AUGUST 28 CARRY TASS WASHINGTON
ARTICLE ON ADMINISTRATION PRESSURE ON CONGRESS TO APPROVE
INCREASED ARMS SALES TO PERSIAN GULF STATES.

--AUGUST 28 KZ HAS ARTICLE BY V. SELIVANOV ON ALLEGED
PENTAGON-CIA MANIPULATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE
COUNCIL (GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, NICARAUGA, AND
PANAMA).

--IZVESTIYA (AUGUST 27) CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT S. KONDRASHOV ABOUT DETROIT
"THE MOTOR CITY AND THE MURDER CITY," NOTING THE COBO
HALL GANGS, THE RACE PROBLEMS, AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

--IN NOTABLE CONTRAST TO MOST OF THE ABOVE ITEMS,
PRAVDA (AUGUST 29) CARRIES AN UPBEAT ARTICLE BY THE POET
YEVGENIY YEVTUSHENKO WHO PLUGS A NEW ANTHOLOGY OF
AMERICAN POETRY (PROGRESS PUBLISHERS) AND DESCRIBES HIS
OWN TRAVELS IN THE U.S. AND HIS CONTACTS WITH CARL
SANDBERG, ROBERT FROST, ROBERT LOWELL AND WITH YONG
AMERICANS.

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